

Tiger Print

Tigers Prevail, Despite Covid-19 Challenges

By Hailey Blagg

Despite the challenges Covid-19 has presented, Georgetowne Middle School has been standing strong. GMS has been in school since Aug. 20, 2020 and plans to keep moving toward having every student back at school.

In order to stay safe and healthy, GMS students and staff should continue to remember these Center for Disease Control (CDC) Guidelines ([cdc.gov/coronavirus/](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/)):

Stop the spread of germs that can make you and others sick!



Wash your hands often



Wear a mask



Cover your coughs and sneezes



Keep **6 feet** of space between you and your friends



New School Year Brings New Gym & Roof to GMS

By Abbi Brent-Skinner

There were multiple updates that happened at GMS this past summer, including the roof and the gym.

In the gym, the floors and walls were updated. Also, the paint in the gym was redone, the tigers on the walls were taken away, and some new features were added.

“My favorite is the tiger in the middle,” Mr. Brown, GMS principal, said.

These projects were completed because the gym was rundown and the roof was allowing water to leak in the building.



PURR-FECT UPDATES. The newly updated GMS gymnasium is up and running just in time for the winter sports season! *Photo courtesy of Abbi Brent-Skinner.*

Student Council Saved Lives on November 2nd

By Hailey Blagg

The Red Cross Blood Drive was an event planned and hosted by GMS Student Council and their advisor, Miss MacDonald, 7th grade ELA teacher at GMS.

“It’s really important right now, with the pandemic, to help those who need blood,” MacDonald said.

The blood drive took place on Nov. 2 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the First Missionary Church in North Pekin.

This blood drive looked different from past blood drives, because of Covid-19 restrictions and CDC guidelines.

“It was definitely different. Clearly, masks were worn, hand sanitizer was used, and temperature checks were conducted at the door. The age limits were also different; people couldn’t bring their kids along while they were donating,” MacDonald said.

These are just a few of the precautions that the Red Cross and GMS Student Council took, in order for this blood drive to be a success.



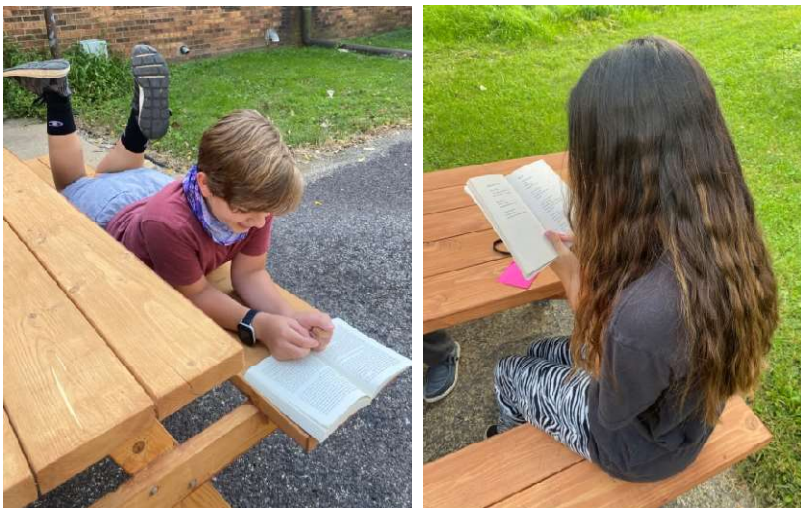
Georgetown Middle School Blood Drive First Missionary Church

Fellowship Area
114 Lincoln Blvd
North Pekin, IL 61554

Monday, November 2, 2020
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

SAVING LIVES. The GMS Student Council held a successful Blood Drive on Nov. 2, 2020. *Photo courtesy of The Red Cross.*

Outdoor Learning Proves to be a Bright Spot during Covid-19



A BREATH OF FRESH AIR; CLASSES/LUNCH HELD OUTSIDE. GMS Students, Jameson Vonderheide and Kiera Tabor enjoy an opportunity to learn outdoors. *Photos courtesy of Miss MacDonald.*

By Kaitlyn Houchin

Students have the opportunity to learn and eat outside this year!

Mrs. Oertle, 7th grade math teacher at GMS, takes her students outside in nice weather.

“I like the outdoor classroom because you can enjoy the shade and the deer,” Oertle said.

In addition to enjoying the shade and seeing the deer, Oertle appreciates the fresh air

“We take a mental break and it helps students focus when we return to the classroom,” Oertle said.

Mrs. Shanklin, GMS aide, supervises outside lunch.

“Taking these masks off at lunch breaks up the day so the day doesn’t feel as long,” Shanklin said.

Tigers' After-School Activities

By Abbi Brent-Skinner

There are many after school activities at GMS, including Chess Club, Conservation Club, Homework Hangout, National Junior Honor Society (NJHS), Scholastic Bowl, Speech Team, Student Council, and Yearbook Club.

Miss Hickey, 6th grade teacher at GMS, is the advisor for Conservation Club, Scholastic Bowl, and Speech Team.

In Conservation Club, students talk about how to improve the earth. Scholastic Bowl allows students to have the opportunity to compete in academic trivia teams, and during Speech Team, students perform lines and create stories.

"It is fun to see their [students'] creativity and random knowledge within these activities," Hickey said.

Mrs. Oertle, 7th grade teacher at GMS, is the advisor for Homework Hangout and Yearbook Club, and helps with the Lock-In.

In Homework Hangout, students complete homework they need to get done and/or receive homework help. For the Yearbook Club, students take pictures and create the school yearbook. The annual Lock-In is toward the end of the school year and gives students the opportunity to participate in all kinds of fun activities.

"It's fun to be with all the kids," Oertle said.

A few other clubs at GMS are Chess Club, NJHS, and Student Council.

The Big Switch: Teachers Move Rooms, Change Content Areas

By Hailey Blagg

There have been many things switching at GMS this school year.

One of the main changes is that some of the teachers have switched classrooms, as well as grade levels and subjects.

Mrs. Lehr, 7th and 8th grade science teacher, was one of the teachers who switched rooms.

"I switched rooms because Mrs. Short retired and the opportunity came up to teach science again. I took that opportunity because I love science," Lehr said.

Mrs. Oertle, 7th grade math teacher, also switched rooms.

"I moved rooms because this new one is between the 6th and 7th grade hallways, so no matter what they have me teach, I can stay in this room," Oertle said.

Both Lehr and Oertle switched rooms over the summer.

"I love having a window to see outside, they let me change everything, and I have a huge closet," Oertle said.

Lehr also commented on the perks of her new space.

"I like my room because it is attached to the lab so I don't have to come downstairs to get my supplies then go back upstairs," Lehr said.

Both Lehr and Oertle not only enjoy their new rooms, but also their new subjects.

Oertle feels like teaching math allows her to be a greater help to students.

"I love teaching the same thing all day. I feel like I'm doing a better job with teaching one subject and being able to give people one-on-ones," Oertle said.

Lehr likes the opportunities teaching science provides.

"I definitely like my new subject because it has a lot of different topics and I get to teach a lot of hands-on topics and activities," Lehr said.



ALL SMILES FOR NEW SUBJECTS!
Mrs. Lehr and Mrs. Oertle are adjusting to their new positions and rooms.
Photos courtesy of Hailey Blagg and Mrs. Oertle, respectively.

Student Council Tackles New Covid-19 Challenges

By Kaitlyn Houchin

The GMS Student Council's work is in full swing, under their new advisor, Miss MacDonald, 7th grade ELA teacher at GMS.

This year, in order to meet CDC guidelines, the student council needs to be more creative than ever before.

"It's been tough, because we can't do assemblies and dances right now, but at least we can do fundraisers and other fun things that still meet the guidelines," MacDonald said.

GMS Student Council is planning to promote Covid-friendly activities and fundraisers this school year. So far, they have created anti-bullying spirit days and planned their annual Red Cross Blood Drive.

Members of the GMS Student Council include: Elizabeth Austin, Hailey Blagg, Marley Dramstad - Newman, Lucas Gosch, Isabella Halverson, Josie Hamilton, Kayne Hayes, Kaitlyn Houchin, Layla Kesler, Emma Kroll, John Kroll, Isabella Mendez, Ruhi Patel, Brogan Pearson, Olivia Poe, Izabella Smith, Alina Vang, and Joey Walker.



A COVID-FRIENDLY COUNCIL. Student Council has been working hard to create and promote school activities that follow CDC guidelines. Pictured are members Kaitlyn Houchin, Alina Vang, Ruhi Patel, and Hailey Blagg, planning an upcoming fundraiser. *Photo courtesy of Miss MacDonald.*

A Monumental Year: The 2020 Election

By Oden Bouchez

Even though middle school students cannot vote, it is still important for them to be informed.

"The students are the ones that are going to end up being the voters," Mr. Ewing, 7th and 8th grade GMS social studies teacher, said.

According to Ewing, who has watched all of the presidential debates, the candidates have been very confusing.

Covid-19 has added to this confusion, as debates were still being held mid-pandemic, until President Trump tested positive for the Coronavirus.

Ewing says that students should watch the presidential debates because of how informative they are and because they can let students know if there is going to be a big change.

The Presidential Election is on Nov. 3, 2020 and GMS will not have school that day, as it was declared an Illinois holiday.

There are many useful websites you can visit to learn about debates and elections. Ewing recommended: <https://www.politifact.com/>.

The Great TikTok Debate: Teachers vs. Students

By Reni Weiss

The modern-day social media craze is the video-sharing app, TikTok.

According to tiktok.com, "It [TikTok] is used to create short music, lip-sync, dance, comedy and talent videos of 3 to 15 seconds, and short looping videos of 3 to 60 seconds."

Students and teachers at GMS have varying opinions of TikTok.

Sophia Burns, 7th grade student at GMS, views and creates videos on TikTok.

"I spend most of the day on TikTok," Burns said.

Burns' parents are not as thrilled with the app.

"My parents don't really like the app, but I play it anyway," Burns said.

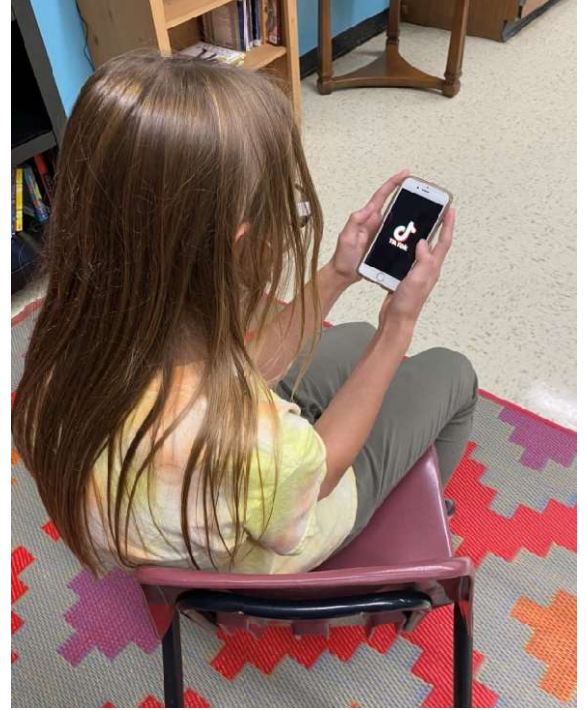
Some GMS teachers do not share the same love for the app.

One teacher that isn't very familiar with the app is Mr. Stambaugh, PE teacher at GMS.

"I don't really like the app, but I don't hate it," Stambaugh said.

Another teacher that isn't familiar with the app is Mr. Ewing, 7th and 8th grade social studies teacher at GMS.

"I don't like the app at all and I don't see myself being a part of it," Ewing said.



THE TIK-TOK TAKEOVER PROVES TO BE A POPULAR TREND AMONG GMS STUDENTS. Sophia Burns opens up her frequently used and loved application: TikTok. *Photo courtesy of Miss MacDonald.*

Endangered Animals: Saving the Sloths



SLOWLY NEARING EXTINCTION. Sloths are high on the endangered species list. The *Tiger Print* Opinion Editor, Frank Passmore, is suggesting a call to action. *Photo courtesy of Google Advanced Search, via Frank Passmore.*

By Frank Passmore

There are 48 three toed sloths left in this cruel world. We need to stop brutality on animal species. It is animal abuse that we are taking their habitats away and making their species go extinct. Due to human activity, there are also fires in the Amazon.

In order to save this species, it is important for readers to learn more about them:

- Their scientific name is *Bradypus*.
- Sloths in the wild actually sleep for nine hours; a lot less than in captivity.
- It takes sloths two weeks to digest their food.
- A sloth's life expectancy is usually 27 to 30 years.
- Sloths have the capability to kill you, if they try.

To find out more about endangered species, go to animalplanet.com.

Despite Covid-19, Softball Season was a Grand Slam

By Giff Parsons

Despite Covid-19, the GMS softball team played their 2020 season, ending with a 1-5 record.

Although they played a shortened season, they still had experienced players, with a combined 16 years of experience.

Even with the struggles of Covid-19 and the extra precautions being taken, the softball players think they did well.

“Nobody wanted to get germs,” Alahna Harris, 6th grade student at GMS, said.

In addition to the changes as a result of Covid-19 precautions, the team dynamic was altered this year as well.

With the addition of new 6th grade players, as well as participants from St. Joseph’s Catholic School, dynamics and positions were shifted.

“The coach put a whole different team in,” Alivia Harris, 8th grade student at GMS, said.

The 2020 team was composed of the following players: **8th grade:** Elizabeth Austin, Jaycee Calabrese-iaea, Kiley Coker, Alivia Harris; **7th grade:** Sophia Burns, Emma Kroll; **6th grade:** Payton Buff, Charli Bumbalough, Khloe Cloud, Morgan Coker, Alahna Harris, Aubri Sluser, Jayla Smith, Riley Walker; **St. Joseph’s Team Members:** Hannah Evans, Alison Lambe, Mckenna Mefford, Katelyn Stolz; **Coaches:** Amanda Jackson and Ashley King

Some of the players’ favorite things to do are batting, getting dirty, and, ultimately, just playing the game.

Professional Sports Persist during Covid-19

By Giff Parsons

Despite Covid-19 and all the precautions that come with it, professional sports continue to play.

As of publication, here are the current standings.

NFL Standings

The best team in each conference in the NFL, as of publication:

NFC West: Seattle Seahawks- 6-1

NFC North: Green Bay Packers- 5-2

NFC South: Tampa Bay Buccaneers- 6-2

NFC East: Philadelphia Eagles- 3-4-1

AFC West: Kansas City Chiefs- 7-1

AFC North: Pittsburgh Steelers- 7-0

AFC South: Tennessee Titans- 5-2

AFC East: Buffalo Bills- 6-2

TAMPA BAY AND LOS ANGELES DOMINATE PRO SPORTS. Despite delays to the start of professional sports’ seasons, the NHL, NBA, and MLB have already crowned their 2020 victors. *Photos courtesy of Google Advanced Search, via Miss MacDonald.*

Hockey

The Tampa Bay Lightning won the Stanley Cup this year against the Dallas Stars.



Basketball

The Los Angeles Lakers defeated the Miami Heat to win the 2020 NBA Finals.



Baseball

The Los Angeles Dodgers won the 2020 World Series. The Dodgers defeated the Tampa Bay Rays.

